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Energy In Ecosystems

All living things require energy that they obtain from "food".

Autotrophs (producers) are organisms that can produce their own food by photosynthesis or chemosynthesis.

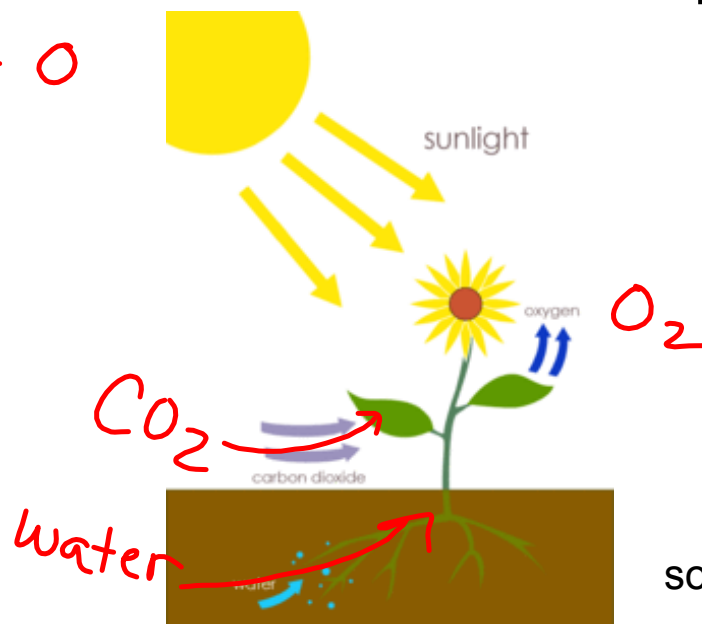
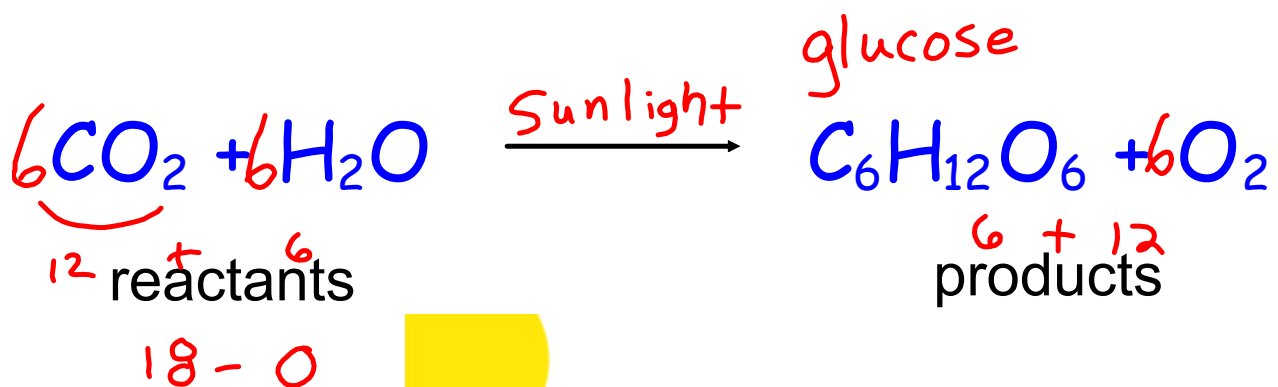
SELF-FEEDERS

Ex: many plants, bacteria

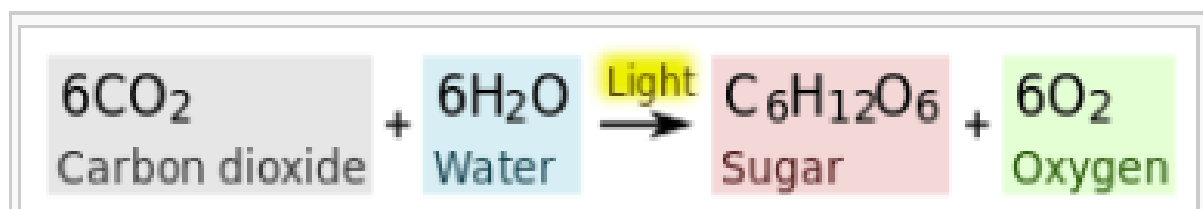
Heterotrophs (consumers) obtain energy by consuming other organisms. Includes herbivores, omnivores, carnivores.

Ex: deer, cats, dogs etc

Photosynthesis is the process that occurs when plants use sunlight to produce carbohydrates.



source: wikipedia



Trophic levels classify living things according to how they gain their energy.



Trophic means "feeder"

In reality, each organism in an ecosystem is part of many food chains that are all interconnected to form a food web.

The most stable ecosystems have high biodiversity and complex food webs.

